



SBA DISASTER NEWS

Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U.S. Small Business Administration – Area 3 Disaster Office – 14925 Kingsport Road – Fort Worth, TX 76155 – 1-800-366-6303

DATE: September 11, 2003
Release Number: 03-267

CONTACT: Michael Lampton
817-868-2300

SBA ADDS NEW COUNTIES FOR MONTANA FOREST FIRES BUSINESS VICTIMS

FORT WORTH, TX – At the request of Governor Martz, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has amended its Montana Economic Injury Declaration to include the counties of Beaverhead, Granite, Park, Ravalli, Stillwater and Sweet Grass. Effective September 11, 2003, businesses in those counties along with contiguous counties of Carbon, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Madison, Silver Bow, Wheatland and Yellowstone will be eligible to apply for financial assistance from the SBA due to the effects of forest fires that began on July 23, 2003 and continue to burn. Businesses in adjacent Park County in the State of Wyoming; and Clark, Fremont, Idaho and Lemhi Counties in the State of Idaho are also eligible to apply.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to eligible small businesses that suffered a substantial loss of income as a result of these conditions. These loans are not intended to cover any physical damages resulting from this disaster.

To obtain an application, or have questions answered; interested business owners should attend one of the SBA Disaster Assistance Meetings; visit a Disaster Loan Workshop; or call the SBA toll-free number 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688, for the hearing impaired. Disaster Assistance Meetings and Loan Workshops are listed below. The deadline for filing an application is May 26, 2004.

This disaster loan is a working capital loan that can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this loan program. The loan is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster-related needs and will supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans are available for up to \$1,500,000 of actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 2.953% and terms may extend to thirty (30) years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant.

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SBA will hold Town Meetings and Loan Workshops at the following times and locations:

WEST GLACIER

Loan Workshop: Monday - Wednesday, September 15-17 (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)

Location: Glacier Natural History Association
(Old Train Station)
12557 Highway 2 East
West Glacier, Montana

MISSOULA

Town Meeting: Monday, September 15 (7:00 PM)

Loan Workshop: Tuesday, September 16 (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)
Wednesday, September 17 (9:00 AM – 12 Noon)

Location: National Guard Armory
Classroom #1
2501 South Reserve Street
Missoula, Montana

HAMILTON

Town Meeting: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 (7:00 PM)

Loan Workshop: Thursday, September 18 (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)
Friday, September 19 (9:00 AM – 12 Noon)

Location: County Courthouse Building
Elections Room
205 Bedford
Hamilton, Montana

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For more information about the SBA Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/disaster.